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Mattie Lasch '05 involved with Raptor Force video

Summary: Mattie Lasch '05 served on the Raptor Resource Project team that collected in-flight video for Raptor Force, a PBS Nature documentary.

(February 16, 2007)-Mattie Lasch '05, New Prague, helped collect video footage featured in Raptor Force, a PBS Nature documentary. Lasch assisted noted bird conservationists Bob Anderson and Rob MacIntyre with mounting miniature cameras on raptors to record in-flight footage. MacIntyre, an engineer, developed the tiny 3-ounce device that captures the amazing speed and agility of red tailed hawks, golden eagles, and peregrine falcons as they soar and dive. Naturalist and award-winning filmmaker Neil Rettig filmed the documentary that is scheduled to premier at 8 p.m. (ET) on Sunday, February 18, 2007.

Lasch, an avid raptor enthusiast since childhood, has worked with mentors Anderson and MacIntyre on many Raptor Resource Projects, including banding peregrine chicks on rooftops in Duluth and along the Mississippi River in southern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. All three are falconers.

“The feeling I get from seeing a red-tail drop out of a tree, or a falcon do a vertical stoop, or a goshawk tail chase a pheasant for fifty yards is a feeling I can’t explain and never get tired of experiencing,” shares Lasch.

An interest in raptors shaped Lasch’s UMM education. His area of concentration, environmental studies, combines elements from both the biology and geology disciplines. A biology practicum and a directed study allowed him to analyze almost 30 years of banding data collected by Frank Taylor, former curator of birds at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center who bands migrating raptors on the North Shore of Lake Superior. “A Passion for Learning,” an essay written by Lasch describing the intertwining of his interest in birds of prey with his passion for learning was published in the Journal of the North American Falconers Association in 2006.

More information about Raptor Force and a video preview of the documentary can be found on the [PBS Web site](#).

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